



**United Schools Federation**  
**St. Catherine's C of E Nursery and Primary School**



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year. We hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It is great to see the children back in school and so happy and ready to learn. As we start another year I thought I would just remind you of a few things, let you know of some of the opportunities we will be offering this year and give you some key dates for the coming term.

**Staff**

We are very pleased to have Miss Drewett join our teaching team this year. She is already settling into our school community well and is a real asset to our school.

**Cycling to School**

It is so great to see so many children walking, scootering and cycling to school. It helps with keeping the traffic at the front of school down and thus making mornings and evenings safer for our children. Please do keep this up even when things get a bit darker and cooler.

A reminder that children who cycle or scooter to school must wear a helmet. It has always been our school policy that the safety of the children must come first and something as simple as wear a helmet when cycling or scootering to school can make all the difference. If you are struggling to get a helmet for your child do please mention it to the office or myself and we will see if we can help.

**Attendance**

Last year our attendance improved, thank you all for your help and support with this. However, we are still below national averages and therefore still need to improve this further. I have put the systems we have to follow as a school in helping improve attendance for your information.

As part of the United Schools Federation policy I will be sending letters to raise awareness of absence when a child's absence falls below 95%. I do understand that sometimes this is due to illness and we will be aware of that; however, I must send these letters out. If attendance doesn't improve for any reason, then you will be invited in for supportive chat about how we can help with this.

Any attendance below 90% is deemed to be persistent absence. At this point I will invite you in to talk things through. Again, to discuss how we can support with improving this.

Holidays and time off can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances. This is not a school rule it is the law. Last year we had to report several cases to the local authority for possible legal action due to holiday or other unauthorised absence. I can assure you I don't like doing it, but it is the legal requirement.

I know all of that sounds heavy but please know I appreciate how much you support the school with dealing with absence and how much effort was put in last year to help improve our attendance. I really do want us to celebrate, as a community, further improvement this year.

There will be achievement certificates for children who have good attendance with half termly awards for attendance of 98% or better.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

## **Reading**

Across the school our children do well with their reading, however, we have had requests for further help and support with encouraging children to read more both in and out of school. To this end we will be starting a new scheme to utilise our school library called accelerated reading. We will be starting this during this half term and will keep you fully informed on the scheme, how it works and how you can make use of it at home to help support your child with their reading.

We will also be running a number of activities in school to help encourage and support you with any questions you may have about supporting your child with their reading at home.

We are also keen to encourage as many parents who can to come in and help hear children read in school. I have already had some parents volunteer and show interest but the more helpers we can have the better for all the children in school. If you would be able and willing to give up a small amount of time on a regular basis to come and hear children read in school, we would really appreciate it. Please contact the school office or your child's class teacher if you can help.

## **Sports Providers**

We have changed our sports provider this year and having had 'Saints Southwest' for the past couple of years we now have a local group 'T14' providing sports provision of a lunchtime as well as after school clubs. T14 are developing a very good reputation for themselves in schools in our area and we are excited about working with them.

## **Clubs**

A clubs list for this term is attached.

## **Opportunities to come and have a chat.**

We shall be having a parent drop in evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 3.30-5pm. This is a chance to come and meet your child's new teacher and to have an informal chat about how your child is settling in to the new school year.

## **Work Showing**

We will be having our first work showing of the year on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 3.30-4.30pm. This is a great opportunity to share with your child the work they have been doing and to chat with your child's class teacher who will be available.

## **Parents Evenings**

These are being held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 3.50-6.20pm. They provide an opportunity to have a more formal conversation with your child's class teacher about their progress during the term

We look forward to welcoming you to these evenings. However, please don't forget that your child's class teacher is always happy to see you to discuss anything you may wish to at the beginning or end of the school day.

Here is to a fantastic year.

Marcus West

(Head of School)

## Clubs list

<b>Club</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Year groups</b>
Multi Skills Club	T14	Mondays 3.30-4.15	Rec, Year 1 & 2
Bible Club		Mondays 3.30-4.15 (Starting	Key Stage 1 & 2
Hand Ball Club	T14	Tuesdays 3.30-4.15	Key Stage 2
Choir	Miss Nichols	Tuesday Lunchtime	Key Stage 2
Football Club	T14	Wednesdays 3.30-4.15 ( a weekly fee of £3 will be required for this club)	Key Stage 1 & 2
Nature Club	Mrs Shilling	Wednesday Lunchtimes	Key Stage 1 & 2
Games Club	Mrs Bramley	Friday Lunchtime	Rec, Year 1 & 2
Homework club	Miss Drewett	Friday Lunchtime	All year groups
Lego Club	Mrs Norris	Friday Lunchtime	Rec, Year 1 & 2
Outdoor activity Club	Mr West	Friday afternoon	Years 4, 5 & 6.

We are aware of a couple more clubs that will be running this year and will send details of these as we have them. If you child is interested in attending a club please complete the form below and return to the office.